

Future Projects

The Original Voices program has several exciting projects in development:

- √ A book featuring interviews of Native American veterans of the Korean War.
- √ Children's books featuring art and history of California Native cultures.
- √ New Native art exhibitions and public presentations.
- √ Web-based school curriculum based on the Living Biographies interviews of Native elders.

About the Program

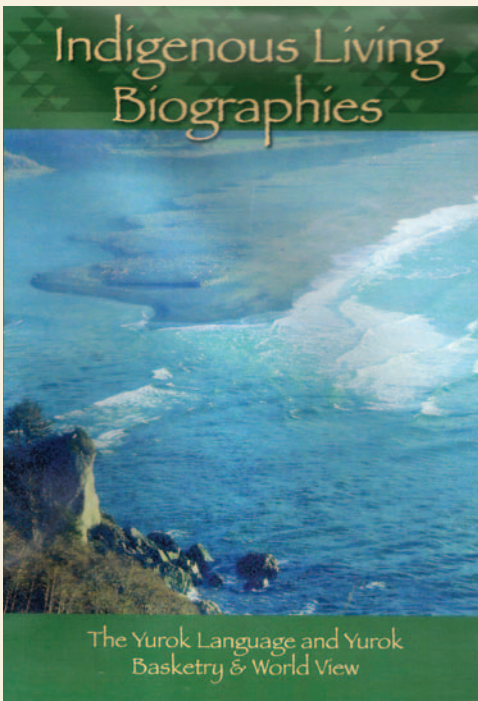
The Original Voices is directed by Chag Lowry (Maidu/Yurok/Pit River). He can be reached at 707-496-2407 or by email at ova@humboldt1.com.

The Original Voices program is part of the non-profit Ink People Center for the Arts. The Ink People Center for the Arts is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

The Ink People Center for the Arts

517 3rd Street Ste. 36, Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: 707-442-8413 Fax: 707-444-8722



Original Voices

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Original Voices



The Original Voices (OV) was established in 1999 and is a non-profit program of the Ink People Center for the Arts located in Eureka, California. The program's mission is dedicated to the respectful preservation and teaching of California Native American history, culture, and art. The Original Voices program has partnered with private foundations and Tribal governments to create several unique projects based on this mission statement.

The Original Patriots: Northern California Indian Veterans of World War Two

Vetted and Sold at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The only book of its kind.
For reviews and more book information, please go to www.originalpatriots.com.



The Original Patriots, written by Yurok/Maidu/Pit River journalist and author Chag Lowry, is 268-pages with 200 color and black and white restored historical photographs, plus maps of key World War Two battles.

It contains 60 interviews of Native veterans from the Mountain Maidu, Pit River, Yurok, Tolowa, Hupa, Karuk, Wiyot, Paiute, Washoe and Shoshone cultures represented. The book also includes a summary of Native American participation in World War One and a history of the Indian boarding school system that most of these veterans went through as young people.

The printing and publishing of 3,000 copies of the book was funded by nine California Native American Tribes and Rancherias, among them are the Susanville Indian Rancheria, the Yurok Tribe, the Smith River Rancheria, the Elk Valley Rancheria, the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, the Wiyot Tribe, the Tyme Maidu Tribe, the Mooretown Rancheria, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. The total cost of this book project was \$85,000.

Native American Art and Culture

In 2000 the OV program supported the creation of the first Native American mural titled “Stairway to Our Ancestors” in the city of Eureka, Ca. Created by artists Brian Tripp (Karuk) and Alme Allen, (Karuk/Yurok), the mural measures 40 feet long to 12 feet high and is located next to the Morris Graves Museum of Art in Eureka, Ca. The mural honors the Wiyot people and their history. The Original Voices program has sponsored several Native art shows at the Morris Graves Museum of Art. Shows titled “What Is Precious” and “Weaving Through Time” have featured traditional and contemporary work by Native artists and basket weavers from throughout Northern California. These shows were supported by several Tribal governments.



Sisters by Skip Lowry



Stairway to Our Ancestors, 40 feet long to 12 feet high, by Brian Tripp & Alme Allen

The Living Biographies Series

From 1999 through 2003 a total of 40 elders were digitally videotaped throughout the North Coast region of California. These elders were from the Wiyot, Yurok, Hupa, Tolowa, and Karuk cultures. Each interview lasted between 60 minutes to 180 minutes in length and covered a range of issues such as the history of Native American boarding schools, the state of local Native languages, the history of military participation among local Native families, California’s Gold Rush history, the history of local river systems, Native American legends and stories, and much more.



From left, Cynthia Bones, Ashley Bones, the late Aileen Figueroa, and Chag Lowry.

A total of 14 half-hour programs were created from these interviews that aired on the PBS station KEET-TV in northern California. The Living Biographies project was funded by the Lila Wallace Reader’s Digest, the California Technology Foundation (now known as Zero Divide), the California Council for the Humanities, the Humboldt Area Foundation and other donors. The total cost of this four-year project was \$250,000.

